United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510 July 17, 2013 COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

FOREIGN RELATIONS

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Honorable John Kerry Secretary of State U.S. Department of State 2201 C Street NW Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Kerry:

As you know, on July 16th, 2013, Panamanian authorities seized a Cuban arms shipment that reportedly included anti-aircraft missile batteries, as well as fighter jets and spare parts from the vessel Chong Chon Gang bound for North Korea. This flagrant violation of multiple United Nations Security Council Resolutions banning the transfer of weapons to North Korea by Cuba, a listed state sponsor of terrorism, is the latest reminder of the true nature of the Cuban regime. I urge the Administration to take meaningful action to send a clear message that Cuban collusion with North Korea to undermine the international nonproliferation system carries heavy consequences.

A State Department spokesperson has acknowledged that such a shipment would violate at least three resolutions adopted by the United Nations Security Council in the last seven years (UNSC 1718, UNSC 1874, UNSC 2094) imposing sanctions on North Korea in response to Pyongyang's nuclear and ballistic missile activities. I believe that this revelation, in addition to Cuba's failure to address its abysmal human rights record, should finally prompt the Administration to re-calibrate its misguided and naive Cuba policy.

The Administration should immediately reverse its January 2011 decision easing restrictions on people-to-people travel and remittances sent to Cuba; as well as immediately halt granting visas to Cuban government officials.

I urge you to also quickly raise this violation of Security Council resolutions in New York at the United Nations and formally review whether North Korea should be relisted as a state sponsor of terrorism given its ongoing cooperation with several state sponsors of terror, including Cuba.

Sincerely,

Marco Rubio

United States Senator